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KGB-A- 5974.

SECRET
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April 1950

Chief, Pullach Operations Base

Chief of Station, Karlsruhe

Operational
File Checks

WGLA-1715, WGLA-1540, etc.

1. We would like to draw your attention to some circumstances, which, in my opinion, make it unwise to have a negative file check on such persons as von POLSCHNIG and the subject of WGLA-1715.

2. The files at the Berlin Documents Center as to Nazi membership and SS membership, as well as the SS personnel files, are so complete that it is unlikely that any person checked, who was a member of either of these two organizations would not be found in the files. On top of this the persons you are dealing with are so well known and their background so well publicized in the past that I deem it improbable that you can protect them from their past history.

3. At the end of the war we tried to be very smart and changed the name of several members of the SD and Abwehr in order to protect them from the German authorities and the occupation authorities. In most cases these persons were so well known that the change in name compromised them more than if they were to face a denazification court and face the judgment which would have been meted out to them. In the meanwhile, the developments in Germany and probably also in Austria have been such that membership in the SS, or in the SD, or in the Abwehr no longer is regarded as a strike against any personality. Since I regard it impossible to keep secret such associations, except in cases where a person was a clandestine agent of a given organization, I request you to reassess the advisability of withholding information available in the Berlin Documents Center.

Distribution

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

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- 2 -

4. For the record I would like to state, however, that we can withhold such information if desired.

ASK:cvg